

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Overview of Mandates Related to Regional Projects

Presented to the Statewide MPO/RTPO Committee

May 18, 2010

2010 Supplemental Transportation Budget: ESSB 6381, Section 205 (8), Transportation Commission Budget Proviso:

“As part of its development of the statewide transportation plan, the commission shall review prioritized projects, including preservation and maintenance projects, from regional transportation and metropolitan planning organizations to identify statewide transportation needs. The review should include a brief description and status of each project along with the funding required and associated timeline from start to completion. The commission shall submit the review, along with recommendations, to the house of representatives and senate transportation committees by January 2011.”

Purpose:

- Provide the Legislature with a list of regional priority projects for their consideration as they contemplate the next statewide revenue package and correlating distribution decisions.
- Legislative leaders were interested in the Commission leading this effort to ensure a statewide perspective and an independent process.

Benefits:

- Regions will have priority projects elevated directly to the Legislature for funding consideration.
- Regional projects will be assessed separately from state projects, allowing Legislative funding decisions to consider the level of progress being made towards statewide “system” connectivity.

February 16, 2010 Request for Information – WTP 2030:

“In preparing WTP 2030, the Commission intends to consider regional and local conditions and concerns. To accomplish this, we are asking for information on three issues:

- **Major Recent Accomplishments.** Please identify your region’s top 5-6 accomplishments since the current WTP was adopted in December 2006. This could include infrastructure projects or policy-based accomplishments
- **Major Projects Underway.** Please identify your region’s 5-6 most significant transportation projects, with a one paragraph description, including expected completion date.
- **Transportation Funding Needs.** In the next ten years, what specific funding shortfalls will there be for your RTPO? Please provide your region’s most recent plan or other document containing a summary of financial needs.”

Purpose:

- To recognize and highlight in the WTP, regional accomplishments over the last four years and identify major projects underway.
- To be able to offer a defensible ball park estimate of the total transportation funding need across the state. The WTP will showcase local & regional needs separately from state system needs.
- The WTP will not contain a project list. However, some of the project information gathered as part of the proviso exercise will be included in the WTP to serve as illustrative examples.

Benefit:

- Long-term local & regional cumulative needs are showcased for consideration by the Legislature and Governor.